

REMARKS

Response to Claim Objections

Claims 8, 14, 18, 22, 26 and 29 were objected to, the Office Action objecting to the use of the trademark symbol “TM” associated with the word “Bluetooth” in the claims. Applicants note that they have combined the subject matter of these claims into the independent claims. As presently written, the amended independent claims do not contain the trademark symbol “TM.”

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19-21, 23-25, 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Beason et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,373,430, (hereafter “Beason”). Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Applicants have amended the claims to indicate that a first electronic device broadcasts a first Bluetooth signal to request location coordinates from electronic devices within a predetermined range of the first electronic device. Thereafter, an electronic device within range transmits a second Bluetooth, responsive signal containing its location coordinates to the first electronic device.

In contrast, Beason does not disclose the use of Bluetooth signals to obtain location coordinates of nearby electronic devices, as is required by each of the claims of the present invention.

In addition, applicants note that Beason does not suggest the use of Bluetooth signals to obtain location coordinates as well, nor is it likely that any reference will disclose or suggest the use of Bluetooth signals to obtain location coordinates because those of ordinary skill in the art traditionally associate Bluetooth signals with devices that are within a short range of each other thereby making the need for location coordinates unnecessary.

Accordingly, Beason cannot anticipate each of the claims of the present invention. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the pending rejection and allowance of claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19-21, 23-25, 27 and 28.

The Section 103 Rejections

The remaining claims were rejected based on 35 U.S.C. §103(a) by combining Beason with either U.S. Patent No. 5,684,703 to Itoh et al. ("Itoh"), U.S. Patent No. 6,484,027 to Mauney et al. ("Mauney"), or combining Beason with so-called "common knowledge." Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

As with the above claims, each of these claims requires the use of Bluetooth signals in order to allow a first electronic device to obtain location

coordinates of electronic devices nearby the first electronic device. In contrast, none of the references, taken separately or in any combination, suggests the use of Bluetooth signals to obtain location information.

With respect to the Examiner's combination of Beason with "common knowledge", Applicants additionally believe this is improper for at least the following reasons.

None of the examples of common knowledge, i.e., the non-patent literature cited in the Office Action, including the article entitled, "Bluetooth--The Universal Radio Interface for Ad Hoc, Wireless Connectivity" discloses or suggests the use of a Bluetooth signal to obtain location coordinates of other nearby electronic devices. Rather, the non-patent literature cited by the Examiner appears to assume that every device is within range of every other device thereby making requests for location coordinates irrelevant.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the pending rejections and allowance of each of the claims.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John E. Curtin at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

In the event this Response does not place the present application in condition for allowance, applicant requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (703) 668-8000 to schedule a personal interview.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By


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